

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 16-18, and 20-24 and objected to claims 3, 7, 13, 15, and 19. However, the Examiner also indicated that claims 3, 7, 13, 15, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has chosen to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 10, and 17 to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. First, the Applicant incorporated allowable dependent claim 3 into independent claim 1. Second, the Applicant incorporated allowable dependent claim 7 into independent claim 5. Third, the Applicant incorporated allowable dependent claim 13 into independent claim 10. Fourth, the Applicant incorporated allowable dependent claim 19 into independent claim 17. Fifth, the Applicant added new claim 25 to recite the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 15 and its base claim 10. Claims 3, 7, 13, 15, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 23 and 24 have also been cancelled for possible inclusion in a continuing application. It should be noted, however, that Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejection of the pending claims. New dependant claim 26 has also been added. Upon entry of these amendments, the claims that remain pending in the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 16, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kimble (U.S. Patent No. 4,781,422) and claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24, and alternatively claim 23, under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Leman et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,436,792).

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 5, 10, and 17 have been amended to include subject matter which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter originally recited in dependent claim 3, independent claim 5 has been amended to include subject matter originally recited in allowable dependent claim 7, independent claim 10 has been amended to

include subject matter originally recited in allowable dependent claim 13, and independent claim 17 has been amended to include subject matter originally recited in allowable dependent claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the section 102 rejections and allowance of independent claims 1, 5, 10, and 17, and the claims that depend therefrom.

New Claims

Claim 25

Independent claim 25 has been added. Independent claim 25 recites the subject matter originally recited in former claim 15 and its base claim 10. Because former claim 15 was only objected to as being based on a rejected claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 25 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 25.

Claim 26

Dependent claim 26 has also been added. Claim 26 does not add any new matter and depends on claim 1, which should now be in condition for allowance. Because claim 26 depends on claim 1, Applicant believes that claim 26 is in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 26.

Conclusion

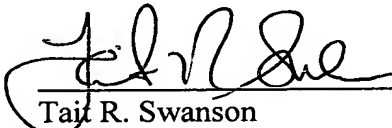
The Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Authorization to Debit Deposit Account

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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